

Blood Testing

We now run a phlebotomy service and here at the surgery. This runs on a daily basis by appointment only. Please remember to bring your blood form with you to your appointment and let reception know when you arrive in the normal way. We ask that you remove coats/jackets when you arrive please.

We also run an in-house INR testing service for patients on Warfarin. Ask at reception for details.

Extended Hours

In November 2008 we introduced our extended opening hours. This means that on certain days of the week you may see a doctor or nurse outside of the normal opening hours.

We have introduced two early morning starts where the surgery is open for extra appointments between 7 - 8am. These run every Wednesday and Friday mornings.

On a Tuesday evening, there are appointments available from 6.30 - 8pm.

We have also introduced a Saturday surgery that runs once a month. This surgery operates between 8 - 11am.

The extended hours surgeries are run by two doctors on a rotational basis.

Please Note:

- The Dispensary opening hours have not changed
- You will be unable to telephone the surgery during the extended opening hours.

**PLEASE CANCEL YOUR APPOINTMENT IF IT IS NO LONGER
REQUIRED**

BLANDFORD MEDICAL CENTRE



GUIDE TO OUR APPOINTMENT BOOKING SYSTEM

Telephone : 01376 347100 Option 1

Website: www.blandfordmedicalcentre.co.uk

Due to a high demand for appointments, we operate a 'book on the day' system for the majority of our appointments so that patients who need to consult with a doctor are seen as soon as possible.

Routine/Follow Up Appointments

If you would like to see a doctor in a non-urgent capacity, we advise that you 'pre-book' your appointment at a time specially reserved for this type of consultation. These appointments are available between 8 – 9.30am and 3 – 4.30pm, depending on the doctor you are seeing.

You may book these appointments any time up to 4 weeks in advance. Early booking is advisable.

Urgent Appointments

If you need to consult with your doctor urgently, you may request an appointment on the same day. You may see your own doctor, or if he/she is not available you may see another doctor.

An alternative solution is an appointment with one of our nurses who operate a Minor Ailments Clinic. The receptionists will offer, if available, an appointment with a Minor Ailments Nurse, who is able to treat common ailments such as chest infections, eye problems, cystitis as well as many others. These dedicated clinics run daily in both the morning and afternoon.

Appointments with a Specific GP

You are able to request an appointment with a particular GP of your choice. If this request is in a non-urgent capacity, we advise that you pre-book your appointment as detailed above. If the request is urgent, you may ask for an appointment on the day but please be aware that if that particular GP is unavailable or fully

booked, you will be offered an appointment with the next available doctor, a minor ailments nurse (if appropriate).

Home Visits

Home visits will only be provided if your condition prevents you from travelling to the surgery. You may request a visit through reception who will submit the request to the GP. Your doctor will telephone you in the first instance and will visit if appropriate.

Please could you telephone by 10.30am for a visit that day.

Nurse Appointments

We strongly advise that you book appointments with a nurse as early as possible as they tend to get booked quite quickly. Some appointments need to be booked in to fit in with your current treatment. For example; the contraceptive injection, dressings etc.. To accommodate these types of appointments, we offer some prebookable slots with our nurses at the beginning of the morning and some afternoon surgeries.

Smear tests need to take place within 10-14 days from the start of your period. Therefore we advise that you call us on day 1 of your period so that we can look 2 weeks ahead for a suitable appointment.

Holiday vaccination requests need to be submitted well in advance of your departure date as many of the vaccinations need to be administered weeks and in some cases months before your departure date for them to be effective.

Our nurse appointment times vary in length depending on the type of consultation. The receptionists need to have an idea what the appointment is for so that they can allocate the right amount of time for you.